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LIST OF AMERICAN LEARNED AND EDUCATIONAL SOCIETIES.

PREPARED BY DR. STEPHEN B. WEEKS.

The attention of members of the society is called to an excellent article with the foregoing title printed in Chapter XIII (pages 1493–1661) of Vol. II, of the *Report* of the United States Commissioner of Education, for the year 1893–94, just issued.

E. S. H.

SCIENTIFIC VISITORS TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

PROFESSOR KAYSER.

We had the pleasure of a scientific visit from Professor KAYSER, of the University of Bonn, on October 5th, 6th, and 7th. The weather was excellent (except for smoke in the valleys from extensive forest fires) and representative of our usual summer conditions, and Professor KAYSER was able to see many objects of which observations have been made here, particularly the spectra of interesting and type objects. E. S. H.

THE MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMISCHE GESELLSCHAFT AT BAMBERG (1896)—GREETINGS TO THEIR COLLEAGUES IN CALIFORNIA.

On October 7th, the mail brought a post-card addressed to the Lick Observatory inscribed as follows:

"From the XVI Astronomical Congress (Bamberg). Send Greetings."

"AUWERS, Dr. J. BAUSCHINGER, Prof. E. BECKER, Strassburg, MARTIN BRENDEL, C. V. L. CHARLIER, F. COHN, Dr. G. EBERHARD, F. FOLIE, J. FRANZ, Dr. ERNST HARTWIG, Bamberg, J. HOLETSCHEK, P. KEMPF, OTTO KNOPF, Jena, H. KREUTZ, Editor ad. int. Ast. Nach., LEHMANN-FILHÉS, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. LEUSCHNER, Dr. MESSERSCHMITT, Zürich, M. NYRÉN, J. A. C. OUDEMANS, J. PALISA, C. F. PECHÜLE, Dr. M. SCHMIDT, R. SCHORR, Hamburg, W. SCHUR, Göttingen, H. SEELIGER, R. STEINHEIL, B. WANACH, Prof. Dr. E. WEISS, Vorsitzender, W. WINKLER, Jena, (and at least one more name not to be deciphered.)

These cordial greetings are highly welcome. They emphasize the fact that science has nothing to do with boundary lines.

Wherever the members of the Astronomische Gesellschaft may be, they have a common cause, and, in a sense, a common country.

E. S. H.

1896, October 8.

MT. HELENA VISIBLE FROM MT. HAMILTON.

Mt. Helena, 4343 feet high, is situated at the head of the Napa Valley, California. It is visible from Mt. Hamilton, at a distance of about 105 miles.

The highest (west) point of this mountain bears 30° 15′ west of true north from the Transit House of the Lick Observatory.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, October 31, 1896.

COMET *f* 1896 (PERRINE).

This comet was discovered about 10 P.M., November 2d, in the constellation *Vulpecula*. Its position at $19^h\ 13^m\ 3^s$ G. M. T., was R. A. $20^h\ 21^m\ 36^s.33$; Decl. $+\ 25°\ 6'\ 39''.8$. Its motion was nearly 2^m west and 50′ south per day. From Mt. Hamilton observations of November 2d, 6th, and 11th, I have derived the following parabolic elements:

$$T = 1897 \text{ February } 8.15286 \text{ G. M. T.}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{rrrr} \omega = & 172^\circ & 37' & 36'' \\ ☊ = & 86 & 28 & 00 \\ i = & 146 & 8 & 42 \end{array}\right\} 1896.0$$

$$q = 1.0571$$

Residuals: (O−C) $\Delta\lambda \cos\beta - 4''$; $\Delta\beta - 1''$.

The comet is faint, not being brighter than a star of 10½ or 11 magnitude, and has a stellar nucleus of about 13 magnitude. It has a well-marked central condensation, and is about 2′ in diameter. Its distance at discovery was about 140,000,000 miles, and is slowly increasing, the comet consequently growing fainter.

C. D. PERRINE.

LICK OBSERVATORY, November 16, 1896.

DECORATION FOR PROFESSOR HOLDEN.

The Director of the Lick Observatory has received the diploma and decoration of Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog, of Denmark, for services to science.